

Jo Bonner

THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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OBSCENE LANGUAGE ON TELEVISION

I have heard from hundreds of constituents who are appalled by a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decision that the use of a certain four-letter obscenity beginning with "f" was allowable. The statement was made by Bono, the lead singer of the rock group U2, during a live television broadcast. Bureaucrats in the FCC's enforcement bureau issued this opinion, which has generated a tremendous amount of controversy. I strongly oppose this decision.

The FCC's enforcement bureau ruled October 3 that the obscenity Bono let slip was an adjective, not sex talk, and as such

it was not indecent. Numerous bills and resolutions have been introduced in Congress addressing this decision, and I certainly support those efforts.

It is appropriate for Congress to review both this case and the underlying issue of obscenity in the media. In the meantime, however, it is encouraging that FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has voiced his opposition to the enforcement bureau's ruling. It appears that the other four FCC commissioners share Chairman Powell's position, so it is expected that the full commission will overrule the bureau, although it is unclear when this action will occur.

WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL
LEADERS HELD JANUARY 23, 2004.
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1ST DISTRICT BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH ST Mobile Aerospace Engineering

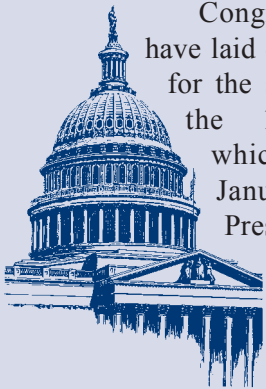
ST Mobile Aerospace Engineering, a Singapore-based company located at Brookley Field, employs more than 1,200 individuals in our area to serve a variety of international airlines, charter operators, freight carriers and leasing companies. Their services include heavy maintenance inspection and checks, life extension work on aging aircraft, corrosion prevention and control programs, major structural work and modification, passenger-to-freighter conversion, avionics modifications, painting and finishing, complete interior refurbishment and/or reconfiguration and fleet standardization.

We were very pleased to learn of MAE's recent announcement that they will be expanding their Mobile operation and adding 300 employees to work in their additional two hangars. MAE's investment in this project is \$9.3 million which shows their commitment to our local community.

Thank you, MAE, for helping our economy by bringing high-paying, full-time jobs to South Alabama. And thank you for making Mobile your home!



AMBITIOUS LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2004



Congressional leaders have laid out their priorities for the second session of the 108th Congress which convened on January 20, when President Bush gave the traditional State of the Union address setting the tempo for the new year.

Important priorities include the reauthorization of surface transportation programs, higher education reauthorization, the Energy Policy Act, class action litigation overhaul, gun liability and medical malpractice legislation. The annual budget resolution, setting guidelines for spending and revenues, must be considered in the early spring, followed by action on the 13 annual appropriations bills.

In addition, further action is anticipated on charitable giving tax breaks, child tax credit expansion, corporate tax overhaul, DNA testing expansion, Head Start reauthorization, Internet tax moratorium, junk E-mail ban, and retirement savings protections.

Considering a tentative adjournment target of October 1 and time off for the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, the congressional schedule this year will be shorter than usual. Completing action on all these issues is an ambitious goal, particularly when we are faced with emergency or urgent, unanticipated requirements to act on some new matter. So our work will certainly be cut out for us.

I have rolled up my sleeves in anticipation of a busy year. As always, I encourage you to keep me informed of your views on legislation pending in Congress.

NEARLY 250 STUDENTS ATTEND ANNUAL “WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS”

I was proud to serve as the sponsor for the “Workshop for High School Leaders” held on January 23, 2004, at the University of South Alabama. Nearly 250 students from over 20 First District high schools attended the half-day program designed to offer high school students an opportunity to learn more about the issues facing the state of Alabama from our area legislators as well as question local journalists on the importance and impact of news organizations on today's society.

The event was a tremendous success thanks to those who took time from their busy schedules to serve on our media and legislative panels: WPMI's Peter Albrecht, WALA's Anissa Centers, WKRG's Mel Showers, the *Mobile Register's* Mike Marshall, State Representative Greg Albritton, State Sen-

ator Bradley Byrne, State Senator Vivian Davis Figures, State Representative Jamie Ison, and State Representative Yvonne Kennedy. WALA's Bob Grip served as moderator for the legislative panel.

The highlight of the event, however, was an appearance

by Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor. General Pryor spoke on the importance of leadership and then fielded some very incisive questions from the audience.

Hats off to the students who participated in this event — your questions were thoughtful and tough. You truly are the leaders of tomorrow!



Shown above is just one of the many students who posed questions to the panelists and Attorney General Pryor.



Above: WKRG's Mel Showers visits with a student after the media panel discussion.



Left: The Press Register's Editor, Mike Marshall, remained after the program to field more questions from students.



Right: WPMI's Peter Albrecht is happy to answer additional questions after the program as well.

Right: Attorney General Bill Pryor enjoyed talking to the students after a tough questions and answer period!



Left: Washington County High School students grab a photo op with the Attorney General.

From the mailbox...

Congressman Jo Bonner:

One reason, among many, that I asked you for help was because of a friend I met while working security. He told me that if I ever needed help with my problems I should ask and rely on you. Another reason I asked you for help is on your Sunday morning TV programs, I saw an honest man with a kind face and soft spoken. I knew I could trust you.

Thank you. Again, thank you...

Sincerely,
A Vietnam Vet
January, 2004



